

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed August 9, 2005, and the Advisory Action mailed December 22, 2005, have been received and their contents carefully noted. This response supplements the *After Final Response* filed December 9, 2005. A *Notice of Appeal* was filed January 9, 2006. Filed concurrently herewith is a *Request for Continued Examination*. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

As noted in detail below, the Applicants have made at least two previous requests for complete consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed December 3, 1999, and August 26, 2003. To date, the Examiner has not commented on the requests. Also, a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was filed December 9, 2005. The Applicants again respectfully request complete consideration of these Information Disclosure Statements.

Specifically, the Applicants note the *partial* consideration of the IDS filed on December 3, 1999 (received by OIPE December 7, 1999). Specifically, despite two previous requests, it appears that the Examiner continues to overlook the citation of JP 58-158967 on Form PTO-1449 filed with the IDS filed December 3, 1999. The partially considered 1449, which was attached to Paper No. 18 (mailed December 13, 2000), does not appear in the Image File Wrapper (IFW); however, the partially considered 1449 was attached to the copy of the Official Action mailed to the Applicants. Also, the Applicants attached a copy of the partially considered 1449 to the *Amendment* filed January 10, 2005 (received January 12, 2005); however, the IFW does not include a copy of this submission. Apparently, these documents were not included in the scanning process. As a courtesy to the Examiner, the Applicants attached a copy of the partially considered Form PTO-1449 with the *After Final Response* filed December 9, 2005 (see IFW under the listing "12/12/2005 Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed PROSECUTION," page 3). It is noted that the Applicants resubmitted the Form PTO-1449 as a courtesy to the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that the above-referenced IDS was properly filed on December 3, 1999, and should be accorded its filing date for the purposes of consideration and compliance with 37 CFR 1.97 and

1.98. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 evidencing consideration of JP '967.

Also, despite two previous requests, the Applicants still have not received acknowledgment of the IDS filed on August 26, 2003 (received by OIPE September 3, 2003). These papers appear in the IFW with a mail room date of "09/03/2003." As a courtesy to the Examiner, the Applicants attached a copy of the Form PTO-1449 from the IDS filed August 26, 2003, with the *After Final Response* filed December 9, 2005 (see IFW under the listing "12/12/2005 Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed PROSECUTION," page 2). It is noted that the Applicants resubmitted the Form PTO-1449 as a courtesy to the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that the above-referenced IDS was properly filed on August 23, 1999, and should be accorded its filing date for the purposes of consideration and compliance with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 evidencing consideration of the IDS filed August 26, 2003.

A Supplemental IDS was submitted December 9, 2005, and consideration of this IDS is respectfully requested (see IFW under the listing "12/12/2005 Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed PROSECUTION," pages 1 and 4").

A further Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith and consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement is respectfully requested.

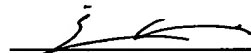
Claims 9-16, 21-24, 33-36, 50-52, 54 and 57-97 are pending in the present application, of which claims 9, 13, 21, 33, 57-59, 66, 69, 73, 77, 81, 85, 89 and 93 are independent. Claims 69-97 have been withdrawn from consideration (page 2, Paper No. 08042005). Accordingly, claims 9-16, 21-24, 33-36, 50-52, 54 and 57-68 are currently elected, of which claims 9, 13, 21, 33, 57-59 and 66 are independent.

Due to a typographical error, claims 86-88 previously depended from claim 81; however, they should depend from claim 85. The Applicants have amended claims 86-88 to correct this error by replacing "81" with "85."

For the reasons set forth in the *After Final Response* filed December 9, 2005, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric J. Robinson
Reg. No. 38,285

Robinson Intellectual Property Law Office, P.C.
PMB 955
21010 Southbank Street
Potomac Falls, Virginia 20165
(571) 434-6789